

## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE - 3005**

### **LAPAROSCOPIC INSTRUMENTS CARE AND HANDLING**

**PURPOSE:** To establish a standard operating procedure for proper care and handling of reusable rigid, laproscopic instruments. This will include light sources, telescopes, trocars, and assorted accessories.

**POLICY:** All instruments will be handled with care to protect the instrument from damage, the staff from injury, and the patient from harm.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** All Preparation, Case Cart and/or Decontamination personnel who clean, assemble/disassemble instrument sets and equipment for use during surgical procedures.

**INFORMATION:** Laparoscopic instruments are fragile in nature and must be handled with extreme care. This equipment should never be combined with heavy surgical instruments.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Immediately after use, the laparoscopic instruments should be wiped of gross contamination and placed in a covered container for transportation to the decontamination area of SPD. Endoscopic forceps and items with lumens should be flushed immediately after use.
2. Telescopes must be placed into their case or tray in a manner to prevent damage to the lens or shaft of the telescope. Light sources and cables, and electrocautery cords should be coiled and placed loosely in the same case.
3. The telescopes and light sources require cleaning with a damp cloth and mild detergent. Once cleaned, a disinfectant must be used to wipe down all surfaces. These items can then be passed into the preparation room for assembly. Do not process these items through the washer/sterilizer.
4. Process the laproscopic instruments (not telescopes) in the same manner as the surgical instruments.
5. Remove the instruments from the washer-sterilizer or disinfectant to the preparation tables. Excessive moisture should be removed from the instruments by drying with lint free towels.
6. Inspect each instrument beginning with the distal tip since they are prone to stress and crack. Inspect the hinge, hinge pin, insulated collar, jaw serrations, and the hook scissors for burrs and sharpness. Test the action of the instruments by opening and closing the handles.

7. Inspect the length of the insulated shaft and insulated handles for cuts and chips. If damage is detected, the instrument must be removed from use and scheduled for re-insulation or replacement. Insulation may become loose and slide away from the collar.
8. Assemble instrument trays by established instrument lists. Tray liners or lint free towels must be used to protect the instruments and wick moisture during the steam sterilization process. Telescopes usually require low temperature sterilization.
9. These instruments can be placed into trays designed specifically for telescopes and laparoscopic instrumentation that will protect them during the sterilization and transportation processes.
10. Tip protectors may be used on delicate tips to prevent damage to the instrument. Acceptable tip protectors allow the sterilant to reach all surfaces of the instrument.
11. The designated sterilization process must be used to prevent damage to the delicate telescopes. **Steris One units will not be used for sterilization of laproscopic instrumentation.**
12. Separate packaged instruments should be placed in the appropriate sized peel pack to assure ease of removal, proper exposure to the sterilization process, and protection of the tips.
13. Once terminally sterilized, items need to be handled carefully when being placed into storage. Instrument trays must not be tipped during transportation. This will cause the instruments to shift and may cause damage to tips, and to the delicate telescopes.

NOTE: Chemical etching is the recommended method for marking instruments. Do not mechanically etch or use color-code tape. Mechanical etching destroys the finish of the instruments, and harbors bacteria. Color-code tape is difficult to clean, harbors bacteria, dirt, and the tape may become frayed and/or chips may be dislodged in the wound if not replaced periodically.

Reference:

Central Service Technical Manual (Fifth Edition)

Storz Instruments. The Care and Handling of Surgical Instruments. St. Louis, MO

VA Handbook and Directive 7176

SPD Training Manual - Level 1